THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Ministry of Power (MoP)/Central Electricity Authority (CEA) regularly monitor the power supply position including generation. In addition, exhaustive review is undertaken wherever situation so warrants. The power supply position in respect of Northern Region was reviewed by CEA/MoP in meetings held in April and May, 2006 with the representatives of State Governments, State Electricity Boards, Central Sector Generating Companies etc. The following short term/medium term measures were suggested:

(i) Utilization of unutilized capacity of gas based stations on liquid fuel,

(ii) Utilization of surplus power of captive power plants in the Grid,

(iii) Minimization of forced outage time by speedy recovery of generating units under outage,

(iv) Rescheduling of planned maintenance generating units to the extent possible,

(v) Demand side management/load management,

(vi) Capacity expansion in the existing power station, etc.

(c) Out of 103 projects in Northern Region, in 59 Projects, the generation was less than the respective target during April—June, 2006; primarily due to ageing of the generating units, shortage of gas, high silt level and more than expected time taken in annual/capital maintenance and R&M works in hydro stations.

Power situation in Delhi

659. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that year after year Delhi continues to face power cuts every summer;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the privatization of power in Delhi so far has not served the purpose for which it was done;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that increasing power rates and the decision of the private companies to recover the cost of theft from all consumers has imposed a heavy burden on the consumers in Delhi with tendency for little action against power thieves; and

(f) the action Government have taken to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The overall power supply position in the National Capital has improved over the years and the energy and peak shortage reduced from 1.9% and 9.2% respectively at the beginning of the 10th Plan (2002-03) to 1.5% and 3.3% respectively in the year 2005-06. However, there have been instances of increased power shortage during certain periods in peak summer and peak winter when the demand for power increases significantly and/or availability of power gets reduced due to higher forced outage of generating units, reduced hydro availability, etc.

(c) and (d) According to Government of NCT of Delhi Privatization of distribution sector in Delhi has shown very encouraging results. Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss reduction in first four years has been around 12% and the distribution companies are committed to reduce losses around 17% during the first five year period. Other parameters have also shown very encouraging trend such as response time to attend faults, etc.

(e) and (f) No Sir, tariff for all category of consumers is determined by Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission Under Section 62 of the Electricity Act, 2003 after examining Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) petitions submitted by Discoms, Delhi Transco Limited, Indraprastha Power Generation Company Limited and Pragati Power Corporation Limited.

According to Government of NCT of Delhi, Special Courts as per Electricity Act, 2003 have been established to expeditiously dispose the cases related to the theft of electricity.

Private Power Plants in Maharashtra

†660. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private companies have been permitted to set up power generation plants in Maharashtra;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.